Promoting food processing industries in U.P.

†3528. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to promote setting up of food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of food processing industries provided Central assistance during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMEMT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of Processed Food Sector in the country. Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI), financial assistance is extended to Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Human Resources Development and Research and Development Institutions etc., for the development of this sector. The schemes are project oriented and not State or area specific.

(c) Financial assistance under the plan schemes of the Department has been extended to 18 food processing projects received from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, apart from extending assistance for training programmes and setting up of Food Analysis and Research Centre.

Agriculture Universities

†3529. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agriculture universities in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to set up more agriculture universities and agricultural and research councils in the country, for development of agriculture;

(c) whether Government also propose to accord the status of Central Agriculture University and Agricultural Research Council to Tirhut Agriculture College, Dholi, Muzaffarpur; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are in all 30 (thirty) State Agricultural Universities, 5 (five) Deemed Universities and 1 (one) Central Agricultural University in the country.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Agriculture education is a State subject.

Documentation of milk products sent to WFO

†3530. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Research Institute has sent documentations regarding milk made sweets and domestic milk products, in order to prevent multinational companies from getting these items patented;

(b) if so, the number of documentations sent to World Food Organisation so far in this regard;

(c) to what extent Government have achieved success in this regard, so far; and

(d) the other steps Government would take in this direction in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir, since traditional dairy products being generic in nature cannot be patented as per existing patent regulations. The technology of manufacture of these products is well documented in the literature and therefore, documents on this product have not been sent to the World Food Organization.

(b) Question does not arise, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise, Sir.

(d) In future, as and when a modern technology related to traditional dairy products is developed, it will be documented and patented.

Health hazard from pesticide in Kerala

3531. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article captioned, "spray of misery" which appeared in the India Today dated 23rd July, 2001 on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.